

FURTHER RECORDS OF PHORIDAE (DIPTERA)
FROM COCOONS OF CIMBICIDAE (HYMENOPTERA)

By A. D. LISTON*

I have collected a further two *Cimbex femoratus* (L.) cocoons containing 6 and 17 puparia of *Megaselia giraudii* (Egger) from soil under birches, Whitadder Valley, East Lothian, 13.iv.1979. 2 ♀♀ emerged on 20.iv.1979 and were determined as *M. giraudii* by Dr. R. H. L. Disney. Also one cocoon of *Trichiosoma lucorum* (L.), containing 3 old puparia apparently identical with those of *giraudii*, was removed from a birch twig at Hopes Reservoir, East Lothian, 5.xii.1979.

As previously stated (Liston, 1979), the only reason why Phoridae do not infest *Trichiosoma lucorum* to such an extent as they do *Cimbex femoratus* appears to be because of the site chosen for overwintering. This is in the soil for all *Cimbex* spp. and some *Trichiosoma*, but the cocoon is spun on a twig of the hostplant in *T. lucorum* and *T. tibiale*. The remains of any dead *Trichiosoma euonymphs* in their cocoons above ground desiccate easily while those of *Cimbex* in the soil are kept damp and are presumably more attractive to female phorids because of the odour given off. Only 1 *Trichiosoma lucorum* cocoon containing phorid puparia has been found in over 330 examined. Conversely, I have examined only about 25 *Cimbex* cocoons, 3 of which have contained puparia.

Dr. Disney's determination of *giraudii* confirms his earlier tentative determination made from puparia. Disney (1979) lists numerous rearing of *giraudii* from insects (chiefly Lepidoptera), most of which appear to have been moribund.

References

- Disney, R. H. L., 1979. Natural History notes on some British Phoridae (Diptera) with comments on a changing picture. *Entomologist's Gaz.*, **30**: 141-150.
Liston, A. D., 1979. On Phoridae (Diptera) from Sawfly cocoons (Hym.: Symphyta). *Ent. Rec.*, **91**: 303-305.
* 99 Clermiston Road, Edinburgh, EH12 6UU.

EGGS LAID BY A DECAPITATED MOTH. — A Muslin Moth, *Diaphora mendica* Clerck, which I caught on the Downs near Beachy Head, Sussex, on 31st May 1982 was unfortunately decapitated as I enclosed it in a box. Arriving home an hour or two later I was surprised to find a few eggs had been laid on the box-side where it was suspended. More were laid later, on the floor of the box, as I watched. Its head was also on the floor. Egg-laying continued for two more days; there were two separate groups as well as the few on the side. The larvae emerged a few days later and were reared on Soft Sowthistle until 1st July when, having to leave home, I released them on Seaford Head. — Miss B. A. KNELLER, 9 Ashurst Road, Seaford, E. Sussex BN25 1AH.